

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address impairments in the Mattox Creek watershed. The affected stream was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report, the Virginia 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters, and the 2004 VA Water Quality Assessment 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. This stream therefore does not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (Swimmable) Designated Use and the Shellfish Propagation Designated Use.

This impairment includes 34.03 miles and 0.4 square miles of Mattox Creek in both Westmoreland and King George Counties.

The shellfish closure is described in the following publications:

1) Growing Area 2 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 1, Mattox Creek, effective 24 June 1996, 8 July 1997, 6 July 1998, 14 September 1998, 29 June 1999, 5 September 2002, 19 September 2003, 15 November 2004, 23 September 2005, and 26 January 2006 respectively.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the fecal coliform TMDL's will be held on **February 7, 2006** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Abraham and William Cooper Memorial Branch Library, 20 Washington Avenue, Colonial Beach, Virginia. Directions can be obtained by calling Chris French at (804) 521-5124. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on February 14, 2006.

The public comment period will begin on February 7, 2006, and end at 5.p.m. on March 9 2006. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chris French and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chris French, Department of Environmental Quality, Piedmont Regional Office, Glen Allen, VA, 23060, telephone (804) 527-5124, Fax (804)-527-5106, or e-mail rcfrench@deq.virginia.gov.